

# ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

## DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES



### NEWS RELEASE

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### **Lower Cook Inlet Salmon Fishery News Release #20**

#### **KACHEMAK BAY PERSONAL USE COHO SALMON FISHERY**

The Kachemak Bay set gillnet personal use salmon gillnet fishery opens in the Southern District by regulation on August 16 and continues through September 15, or until the guideline harvest range (GHR) of 1,000 to 2,000 coho salmon has been harvested (5AAC 77.549). Participants in this fishery must be Alaska residents, have a current Alaska sportfishing license, and must have a permit for this specific fishery. These permits are issued from the Homer ADF&G office and are available during normal business hours. Participants in this fishery are requested to report daily catches to the Homer ADF&G office at 235-8191, or 235-1738 during evenings and weekends. Permit holders are also requested to remain on site while set gillnet gear is in operation. Unattended gear may be confiscated if the permit holder cannot be located.

The duration of this fishery is dependent on fish abundance, as well as the number of permits issued and the number of permits actively fished. For example, in 2004, with 91 permits issued, only 96 hours of fishing time were required to attain a catch that fell within the GHR, while in the 2005 fishery 213 hours (over four 48-hour periods) were needed with 108 permits issued. Both early and late run coho salmon are expected to return to the Nick Dudiak Fishing Lagoon in 2012, (Figure 1). The early run peaks during the first week of August and ends approximately August 15, closely corresponding with the regulatory opening date of the personal use fishery, while the midpoint of the late run falls at the end of August.

#### **Regulation Summary**

Below is a summary of regulations governing the Southern District Personal Use Coho Salmon Set Gillnet Fishery, excerpted from the 2011-2012 Statewide Subsistence and Personal Use Fisheries Regulations booklet. **THIS SUMMARY IS INTENDED AS AN INFORMATIONAL GUIDE ONLY.** Regulation booklets, or further clarifications of applicable regulations, can be obtained from the Homer ADF&G office.

**1. ALASKA RESIDENT SPORT FISHING LICENSE REQUIRED** (except by Alaskan residents exempt from licensing under **AS 16.05.400**).

**2. SEASONS and FISHING PERIODS:**

A. The opening date for the Southern District personal use fishery is August **16**. The fishery will remain open on two regular 48-hour fishing periods per week (see "B" below) until the harvest is projected to fall between 1,000 and 2,000 coho salmon, at which time an Emergency Order closure will be announced. The season could be closed prior to attainment of the guideline if the Department determines that continuation of the fishery could negatively impact wild stocks of cohos.

B. Weekly fishing periods will be 6:00 a.m. Monday until 6:00 a.m. Wednesday and 6:00 a.m. Thursday until 6:00 a.m. Saturday, unless otherwise specified by Emergency Order. All nets must be **totally removed** from the water during closed periods (i.e. **BY** 6:00 a.m.).

**3. PERMIT REQUIREMENTS:**

A. Salmon may be taken for personal use only under the authority of a permit issued through the ADF&G Homer office.

B. Salmon may be taken for personal use purposes only by Alaskan residents. Non-residents **MAY NOT** assist in the operation of the vessel or gear and may not handle personal use caught fish at the fishing site.

C. Only one personal use permit may be issued to each household per year (i.e. a household **MAY NOT** hold a permit for personal use fishing in both Upper and Lower Cook Inlet in the same calendar year).

D. Permits and permittee's sport fishing license must be retained in the possession of the permittee, and be readily available for inspection while taking fish. A person who transports fish taken for personal use shall have a personal use fishing permit in possession.

E. A personal use fishing permit holder shall record daily salmon catches (by species) on the bottom of the fishing permit in the appropriate spaces. ***The department also requests that permit holders voluntarily***

*call in their daily catches to the Homer office at 235-8191 (or 235-1738 on evenings and weekends) during the open season to help gauge participation and run strength.*

F. Permits must be returned immediately after the fishery closes **EVEN IF NO FISH WERE CAUGHT OR IF THE PERMIT HOLDER DID NOT FISH**. A permittee who fails to return a permit at the end of the season will be INELIGIBLE to receive a permit during the following year. The voluntary inseason call-in reporting does **NOT** exempt a permit holder from this requirement.

#### 4. **LAWFUL GEAR AND GEAR SPECIFICATIONS:**

A. No single personal use set gillnet may exceed 35 fathoms (210 feet) in length. Nets may not exceed 45 meshes in depth and may not exceed 6 inches (*stretched measure*) mesh size. Gillnet web must meet one of the following requirements:

(1) the web must contain at least 30 filaments and all filaments must be of equal diameter;

(2) the web must contain at least six filaments, each of which must be at least 0.20 millimeter (0.008 inches) in diameter.

B. Each personal use permit holder will plainly and legibly inscribe his/her first initial, last name, and home address on a keg or buoy attached to the gillnet being used.

C. A permit holder may **NOT** fish more than one net, regardless of net length, at the same time.

D. No part of a set gillnet may be operated within **600 feet** of another set gillnet.

E. No part of a set gillnet may be set or operated more than **500 feet from the mean high water mark**; no set gillnet may be set seaward of another set gillnet.

**NOTE:** There are no inherent rights establishing a set gillnet fishing site. The placement of signs, running lines, stakes, buoys or dry nets on the beach in anticipation of incoming tides does not constitute any prior right to a net location. **Fishermen are cautioned that the Alaska Wildlife Troopers and/or Fish & Game personnel enforcing regulations in the fishery will make no on-grounds attempt to determine “first in time” status of violators and that ALL permit holders found in violation will receive a citation which could ultimately result in court appearance.**

#### 5. **LIMITS:**

A. The total annual possession limit is 25 salmon for the head of household and 10 salmon for each dependent of the permit holder.

B. All salmon taken under the authority of a personal use permit must have both lobes of caudal (tail) fin removed from the salmon before the fish is concealed from plain view or transported from the fishing site (Figure 3).

#### 6. **RESTRICTIONS/UNLAWFUL ACTS:**

A. It is unlawful to buy, sell, trade, or barter Personal Use harvested fish, their parts, or eggs.

B. The taking of rainbow trout and steelhead is prohibited.

C. It is unlawful to waste salmon (fail to utilize the majority of the carcass, excluding viscera and sex parts) intended for consumption by humans.

7. **CLOSED WATERS:** There are numerous areas closed to commercial fishing (**5 AAC 21.350** of the commercial salmon regulations) and personal use fishing (**5 AAC 77.549** of the personal use salmon regulations), all applicable to the Kachemak Bay gillnet fishery; a description of the Southern District open to personal use fishing as well as areas closed to fishing are summarized as follows:

#### **Description of the Personal Use Fishing Area**

The area of the Southern District open to personal use fishing is comprised of waters described as “nonsubsistence” (**5 AAC 99.015. JOINT BOARD NONSUBSISTENCE AREAS**), which include those waters east of a line from the easternmost point of Jakalof Bay north to the western most point of Hesketh Island (Figure 2) and north of the latitude of the western most point of Hesketh Island, except for the closed waters described above. Participants are advised that commercial set gillnetting is also permitted on the same weekly periods as the personal use fishery in parts of the Halibut Cove and Tutka Bay areas.

**5 AAC 21.350. CLOSED WATERS (Commercial Salmon Regulations)**

(d) Kachemak Bay:

- (1) Northeast of a line from an ADF&G marker at 59° 44.5' N. latitude, 151° 02.01' W. longitude [a point on the mainland near Chugachik Island], to an ADF&G marker on the shore one-half statute mile southwest of the terminus of Swift Creek (or 59° 47.15' N. latitude, 151° 05.45' W. longitude).
  - (3) Waters of China Poot Bay south and east of the Homer Electric Association power line;
  - (4) Waters of Sadie Cove south of 59° 30.0' N. lat.;
  - (5) Waters of Tutka Bay Lagoon; and Tutka Bay southeast of 59° 25.50' N. latitude
- (h) in any bay, estuary, slough or lagoon less than 300 feet in width at mean low tide.
- (i) in all other streams or rivers within 500 yards of the terminus or as posted.

**5 AAC 77.549. PERSONAL USE COHO SALMON FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN.**

(b) Salmon may NOT be taken in the following waters:

- (1) between the terminus of Troublesome Creek and the terminus of the Anchor River;
- (2) from the north entrance of the Homer Boat Harbor, northwest along [the east side of] the Homer Spit to a department marker located approximately 200 yards northwest of the entrance to the enhancement lagoon on the Homer Spit;
- (3) those waters described in 5 AAC 21.350(d) (1), (3), (4), and (5) [see above];
- (4) west of a line from an ADF&G marker at "Green Timbers" (59° 37.67' N. latitude, 151° 28.38' W. longitude) on the Homer Spit to an ADF&G marker approximately 300 yards east of the Homer airport access road (59° 38.35' N. latitude, 151° 28.71' W. longitude).

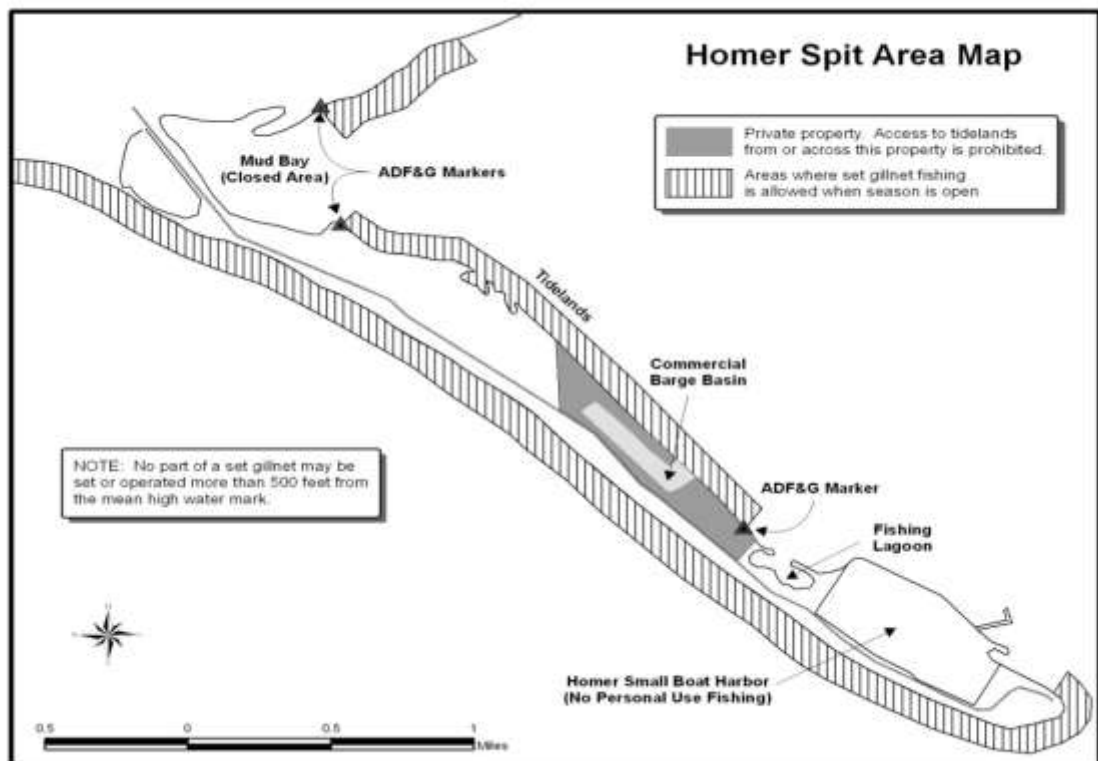


Figure 1.- Homer Spit area showing fishing lagoon, and personal use set gillnet fishing areas

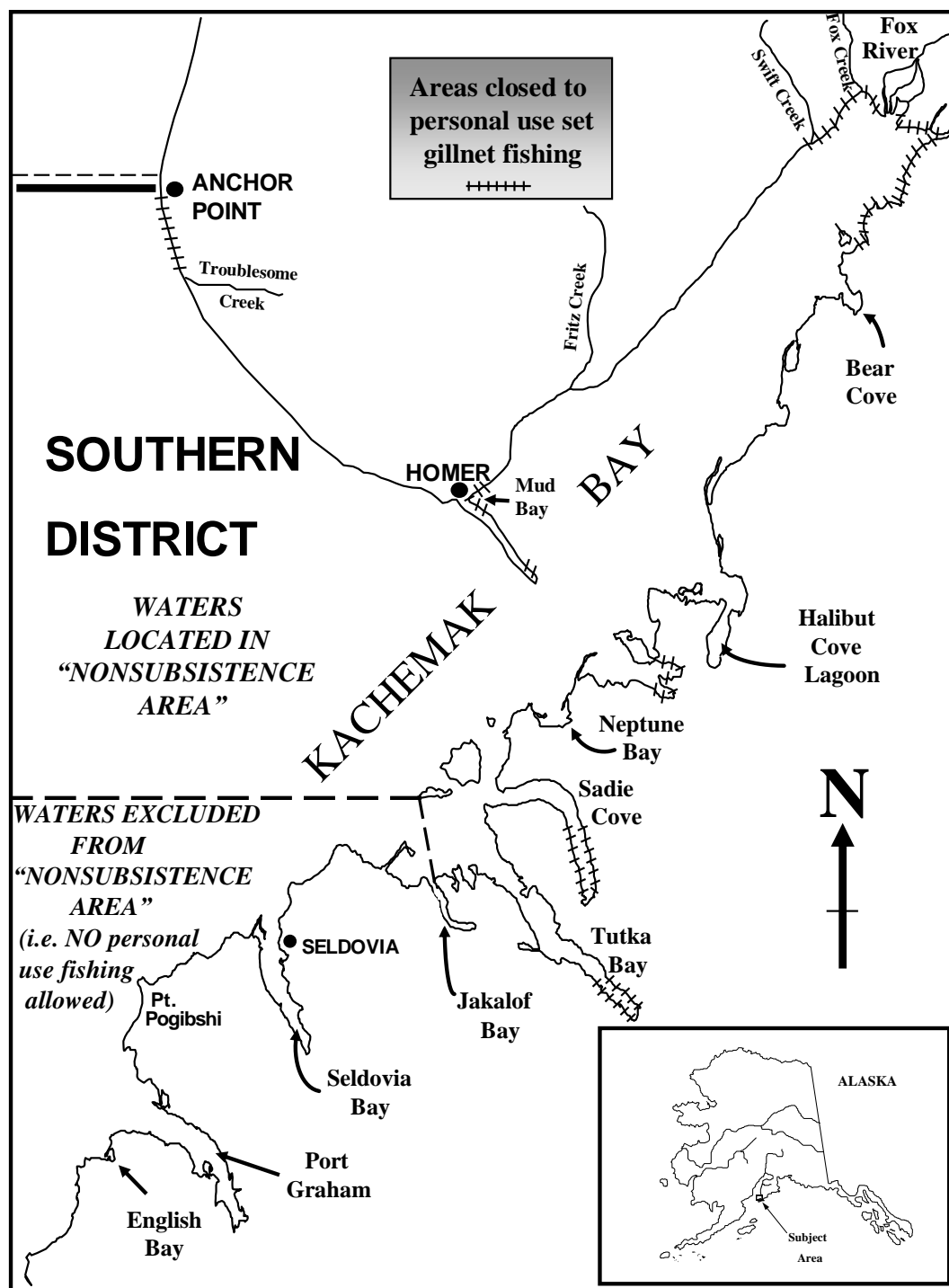
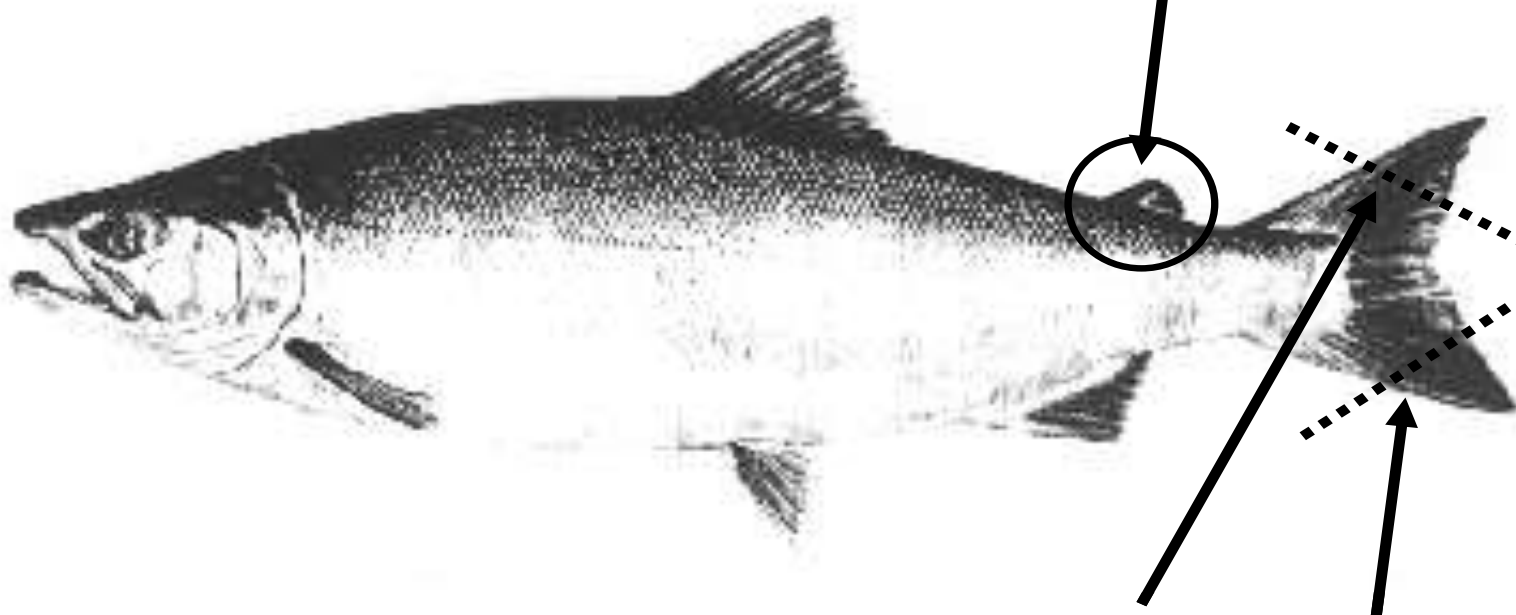


Figure 2.- Southern District personal use salmon fishing area.

**IF ADIPOSE FIN IS MISSING, PLEASE RETURN HEAD  
OF FISH ONLY TO HOMER ADF&G OFFICE WITH  
CATCH INFORMATION**



**PERSONAL USE-CAUGHT FISH MUST HAVE BOTH  
LOBES OF CAUDAL (TAIL) FIN REMOVED**

Figure 3.- Personal use salmon marking (5AAC 77.010(f)).

**CALL IN DAILY CATCHES @ 235-8191,  
Evening/Weekends 235-1738**

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